

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00991 051631Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 051545Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0700
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0991

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR,UNSC, LE, IS, XF
SUBJECT: UNIFIL ORGANIZES ITSELF

1. UN SOURCE INFORMED DPO THAT GENERAL ERSKINE HAS CALLED FOR FIRST UNIFIL COMMANDERS CONFERENCE APRIL 6 IN ANQOURA. COMMANDERS OF FRENCH, SWEDISH, IRANIAN AND NORWEGIAN CONTINGENTS WILL ATTEND. AGENDA WILL INCLUDE POLITICAL BRIEFING BY PRIETO ON SOUTHERN LEBANON SITUATION AND USE OF FORCE ISSUE AS WELL AS DISCUSSION OF MILITARY ITEMS SUCH AS USE OF HELICOPTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, PERSONNEL, LOGISTICS, AND OTHER OPERATIONAL MATTERS.

2. ERSKINE HAS SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY INTENDS TO TAKE OVER UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS IN LEBANON BY SUNDAY, APRIL 16. IN FILLING OUT OTHER SLOTS IN UNIFIL TOR, OUR SOURCE SAYS THAT FRENCH WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE DEPUTY COMMANDER
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00991 051631Z

(BRIGADIER) AND LOGISTICS CHIEF WHILE NORWEGIANS WILL LIKELY PROVIDE CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER.

3. OUR SOURCE SAYS THAT ONE SPECIFIC MATTER TO BE RAISED WILL BE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE NORWEGIANS CO-LOCATING IN BEAUFORT CASTLE WITH PALESTINIANS.

4. COMMENT: AS INDICATION OF LACK OF
MUTUAL CONFIDENCE BETWEEN ERSKINE AND SIILASVUO, WE UNDERSTAND
THAT ERSKINE HAS ASKED SIILASVUO NOT TO ATTEND CONFERENCE.
SIILASVUO, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, IS HURT AND ANGRY AS HE
NORMALLY ATTENDS SUCH CONFERENCES IN OTHER COMMANDS (UNEF
AND UNDOF).
NEWLIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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